

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace the following paragraphs.

[0044] Referring to Figure 4a-4b, a novel cutting element in accordance with an embodiment of the present invention is shown. In this embodiment, as seen in Figures 4a and 4b, the insert 100 includes a ~~leading-edge~~ shearing portion 102 having a given thickness. In a particular embodiment, the ~~leading-edge~~ shearing portion 102 comprises a diamond table having a selected thickness, which is formed in a manner similar to conventional PDC diamond tables with tungsten carbide substrate. In the embodiment shown, the ~~leading-edge~~ shearing portion 102 has a thickness of about 0.080 inches to about 0.120 inches. The thickness and nature of this leading edge may be varied, depending on a user's requirements.

[0045] In particular, the ~~leading-edge~~ shearing portion 102 may be formed from a number of compounds, such as cubic boron nitride (CBN), PDC, or TSP. The specific composition of the ~~leading-edge~~ shearing portion 102 is not critical, but may be selected to provide the desired shearing action.

[0048] By brazing the insert 100 into a socket, which occurs at significantly lower temperature than diamond impregnation, thermal degradation of the ~~leading-edge~~ shearing portion 102 may be avoided. Advantageously, therefore, the integrity of the ~~leading-edge~~ shearing portion is maintained. During drilling, the leading edge of shearing portion 102 provides shearing cutting action similar to that of a PDC cutter. As wear progresses, the body 104 of the insert 100 introduces impregnated diamonds to the formation, increasing drilling efficiency and limiting the progression of wear. Thus, an insert formed in this manner includes both a shearing portion (102) and an abrasive portion (104).